GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3210
ANSWERED ON:19.03.2001
DECLINE IN GROUND WATER LEVEL
T.M. SELVAGANAPATHI

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have initiated any steps to check the quality of ground water in many parts in the country;

(b) if so, whether any funds have been allocated to the State Governments to conduct research in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SMT. BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY)

(a) Water being a State subject, provision of safe drinking water supply is the responsibility of the State Governments. The steps taken by the Union Government to check ground water pollution in the country includes:-

(i) The Central Ground Water Authority notifies areas from time to time for control and regulation of ground water development. So far, it has notified Najafgarh and Mehrauli blocks of NCT Delhi, Municipal Corporation area of Faridabad, Ballabgarh and Ghaziabad, Ludhiana city, Diu and Jhotwara block of Jaipur district, Rajasthan.

(ii) Identification of hand pumps and other structures in polluted areas where the shallow ground water is not fit for human consumption and painting them red with warning.

(iii) The Central Ground WaterAuthority have organised mass awareness programmes among public, industrialists and industrial workers regarding pollution and over-extraction of ground water.

(iv) The Central Ground Water Board and the Central Pollution Control Board are carrying out the periodic monitoring of ground water quality in the country.

(v) The Rajiv Gandhi Drinking Water Mission is providing safe drinking water to the rural areas and also providing contamination removal plants to the States in the water quality affected areas.

(vi) Central Pollution Control Board has adopted several measures like directing the industries through State Pollution Control Boards to limit the discharge of effluent within the stipulated standards, initiation of scheme to give assistance to clusters of small scale industrial units for setting up common effluent treatment plants and taking up of quality scheme of monitoring in critically polluted areas.

(b) & (c) The Government of India assists the State Governments by providing funds under the Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) for coverage of rural habitations with safe drinking water. The States/Union Territories can utilise upto 20% of the ARWSP funds for Sub- Missionprogrammes meant for tackling quality problems and sustainability issues in respect of rural dirnking water. The powers to plan, sanction and implement Sub-Mission programmes have been delegated to the State Governments with effect from 01.04.1998. The expenditure for implementation of Sub-Mission projects is shared between the Central and States/Union Territories in the ratio of 75:25

Under the newly launched Prime Minister's Gramodaya Yojana, rural drinking water is one of the components under which projects/schemes can also be taken up for tackling quality problems in affected States/Union Territories.